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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Thailand/Burma	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Opium Traffic between Mong Hang, Burma and Chiangmai, Thailand	DATE DISTR.	12 November 1953	
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. A starting point of opium caravans moving through Chiangmai is Mong Hang (N 20-03, E 98-57), Burma, approximately 30 miles northeast of Muang Fang (N 19-55, E 99-13), Thailand.
2. Approximately 1,000 armed, uniformed guards, who are either Haw Chinese or KMT deserters, inspect all merchant parties entering Mong Hong. These men also hire out as guards for opium caravans leaving Mong Hang enroute to Thailand. After trader merchants are searched they are directed to the house of the Mong Hang ruler,¹ a Ngwo tribesman,² where a pass is issued permitting their residence in Mong Hang for a few days. A merchant buying opium in Mong Hang is charged a tax equivalent to approximately five cents United States money. This is used to subsidize the Mong Hang guards.³
3. The Thai Police recently sent a twelve-man border patrol unit to the Mong Hang-Muang Fang trail area. The patrol halted travel between these points. A group of men sent from Mong Hang attacked the patrol killing nine men.

1. Comment. The Mong Hang area, similar to an autonomous state, is under the control of one man.
2. Comment. This tribe may be the Lahu tribe, a small ethnic tribe known to be living in the vicinity of Mong Hang.
3. Comment. Mong Hang people are dependent on opium trade for their livelihood.

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